

Training to youths in Pakistan to fight against India

171. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that 900 British Muslims are being trained in Pakistan every year to fight a holy war in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken up to control such movement against India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Government are aware of media reports to this effect.

(b) Dangers posed by such recruitment for the ostensible purpose of waging in 'holy war' in Kashmir, have been discussed during the ongoing dialogue with the U.K. including at the first meeting of the India-U.K. Joint Working Group on International Terrorism and Drug Trafficking held on 22nd January, 2001, in New Delhi. Possibilities of cooperation in combating international terrorism under provisions of the UK's Terrorism Act, 2000 were also discussed.

Pak and Chinese diplomacy

172. SHRI K. KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan and China have an edge over India in diplomacy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to move away from the earlier attitudes in the interest of ending military conflict in Kashmir, Ladakh, Akshi Chin prolonging for more than 50 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.